Vellalas who formed the bulk of the people in the two taluks were being governed. He then gave the early history of the proposed legislation which was withdrawn and observed that no time should be lost in enacting the law. On account of uncertainties in the system of inheritance, Government also were claiming properties of Nanjinad Vellalas in alleged cases of escheat. He then reviewed the judicial decisions on the subject and submitted that the High Court itself had expressed opinions which questioned the legal validity of marriages among the community performed under customary law. It was a matter of grievance to them that the legality of their marital alliances should remain an open question. It could not be said that the members of the community were contented with their present system of inheritance and succession and the judicial decisions had practically declared them Marumakkathayees, pure and simple, which was not the case. Their leaders like the late Mr. Sivan Pillai had been protesting against that view and submitting memorials and petitions to Government requesting from so early a period as 1070 to give them a law on the subject conforming to the present-day ideas and ideals. The Member contended that they were not Marumakkathayees and that what they had been following was a mixed system of Makkathayam and Marumakkathayam which, he stated, was forced on them for political purposes; what they wanted urgently was a law embodying firstly right to individual partition. Secondly, the children of a man or woman should be accepted as his or her heirs with the right to take paternal and maternal properties in equal shares. Thirdly, in the absence of descendants, paternal and maternal properties should devolve on paternal and maternal relations respectively up to a certain degree. Fourthly, divorce should be granted by Courts for proper reasons such as incapacity for sexual felicity, incurable disease in either party, adultery in woman, and adultery and cruelty in man. In conclusion, the Member prayed that the details might be worked out on the analogy of the Hindu law.

Dewan.—A Bill was once introduced into the Legislative Council. But, as the people concerned were not satisfied with it, it was withdrawn with a view to bring in a more comprehensive Bill. Do you now press for a Committee ?

Member.—We do not want a Committee, but we want a Bill embodying the points already urged.

Dewan's reply.—Early action will be taken to introduce a fresh Bill in the Legislative Council.

30. Need for a legislative enactment to regulate inheritance and succession among Pulayas.

Mr. Karumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) submitted that the system of inheritance among Pulayas depended on that of their land-lords. In ancient days when they were slaves they had nothing to own as theirs. But now on account of the generous policy of Government they had become owners of lands and had been able to secure landed property. The necessity, therefore, arose for a fixed and definite system of inheritance. The decisions of the High Court were inconclusive, as they seemed to recognise three forms of inheritance, *viz.*, Makkathayam, Marumakkathayam and a mixture of the two. The want of a law of succession worked great hardship among them and gave room for a good deal of litigation in which the illiteracy and ignorance of the Pulayas were taken advantage of by others. The Member, in conclusion, prayed that a law of inheritance and succession be enacted in which there should be provisions to—

(1) make the issue from duly married couples the real heir ;

(2) allow each man to marry one woman and each woman to have only one husband ; and

(3) declare a marital tie null and void only on the written consent of either party, or on the death of either party, or on the strength of a decision passed by a duly constituted court of law.

The Member added that the proposed law might be enacted either through a Committee or otherwise.

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Dewan.—Do all the Pulyas follow the same custom ?

Member.—They follow different customs.

Dewan.—Then how can one law satisfy all the parties?

Member.—A law on the lines proposed by me will meet all cases.

Dewan.—Your proposal may not be acceptable to other members of the community.

Member.—My proposal has been accepted by other members of the community.

Dewan.—The Member's representation will be considered.

The Member submitted that, while Vernacular education had made fair progress among the community, they were very backward in English education. He requested that two scholarships might be awarded for English education, one to a Pulaya boy and the other for a Pulaya girl.

Dewan's reply.—Arrangements will be made for one Pulaya boy being given a scholarship to study English.

31. Need for the early redress of grievances of Kudiyans under the Jenmi-Kudiyan Regulation.

Mr. M. Krishna Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) complained that the draft Bill submitted by the Jenmi-Kudiyan Committee had not even gone before the Legislative Council, though the report of the Committee was published together with the draft Bill about four years ago. In the meanwhile the Kudiyans were suffering very much from the high-handed ways of the Jenmies. The Jenmies were mostly absentee land-lords, getting their dues through their *Karyasthans* and having all their business transacted by their agents. In that method of transacting business, the sufferers were the Kudiyans, who had to obey the Jenmi's behests—reasonable or unreasonable. The most important aspect of the relations between the Kudiyans and the Jenmies was the large volume of civil litigation in which the Jenmies had been granted certain conveniences by the law. Those conveniences were being utilised by the *Karyasthans* as weapons of offence against the Kudiyans and the harassment and trouble caused to the latter were great and insufferable. The Member explained in detail the various ways in which litigation affected them. One cause of litigation was that, under the present law, a Jenmi could allow his *Varam* dues to accumulate for 12 years. Resort was then had to the civil courts for the realisation of the arrears and it was at that juncture that renewal deeds were being written up. Renewal deeds prepared under such circumstances were naturally all one-sided and contained conditions and terms which practically ruined the Kudiyans, because the *Karanavans* for the time being had no option but to consent to any terms proposed on behalf of the Jenmi. The Member next dealt with the evils to the Kudiyans arising from the payment of the dues in kind and also dilated on the inseparable hardships caused by the absence of uniformity in the paddy measure. His opinion was that, when courts adjudged the decree amounts in litigation, consideration should be given to such items as the amount spent in agriculture, the cost of labour, the quantity of rainfall, the temporary obstacles to cultivation (if any), the conveniences of irrigation, &c. There was no definite rule or law to make court-fees uniform in certain classes of cases between Jenmies and Kudiyans. To remove those and other evils arising from the present chaotic condition of the relations between Kudiyans and Jenmies and to establish cordial relations between them, it was highly necessary that there should be a law which should be passed as early as possible. In conclusion, the Member urged that the Kudiyans should be given the power of returning a member to the Legislative Council in the same manner as the Jenmies especially in view of the new Bill being taken up for consideration at the Council.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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